

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. These claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,381,610 (Gunderwar, et al.).

5 Applicants have provided arguments below for distinguishing the present invention from the cited Gunderwar reference.

Applicants' use of reference characters below is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be limiting in nature unless explicitly indicated.

35 U.S.C. §102(b), CLAIMS 1–10 ANTICIPATION BY GUNDERWAR

10 1. *Regarding claims 1 and 2, Gunderwar fails to teach the step element of providing a first electronic page comprising a field in which a project proposal can be entered with the second computer, but rather teaches the presentation of a pre-existing project.*

In the OA, on pp. 3–4, the Examiner states that Gunderwar teaches each
15 element of claims 1 and 2. Specifically, on p. 3, the Examiner states that Gunderwar teaches:

20 providing a first electronic page that can be loaded from a first computer with a second computer via an information transfer network, the first electronic page comprising a field in which a project proposal can be entered with the second computer (column 1, lines 58–65).

However, Gunderwar states, at the cited section:

25 The method also comprises communicating the template identifier selected by the user from the client to the server and displaying a template at the client in response to the selected template identifier, the template including data fields for completion by the

user. The method further comprises communicating the template having completed data fields from the client to the server and updating a project workspace with the completed template.

5 This does not teach providing a field via which a project proposal can be entered. The preceding sentence (1:53–58) of Gunderwar clarifies this:

10 The method further comprises displaying a procedure data sheet at the client in response to the selected procedure identifier, the procedure data sheet including a list of procedure steps for the selected procedure identifier and at least one of the listed procedure steps including a template identifier.

 It is clear from this section that the template identifier is included on the procedure data sheet that includes an existing list of procedure steps. Thus, the
15 information does not relate to a project proposal, i.e., a new project, but rather relates to a preexisting project.

 Gunderwar deals with the detail of administering tasks of an already authorized project, which contrasts to the present invention, as claimed in claims 1 and 2, dealing with an authorization process for a project idea or a project
20 proposal.

 Given the lack of teaching in Gunderwar related to the provision of a first electronic page in which a project proposal can be entered, Gunderwar fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed elements and therefore does not anticipate claims 1 and 2, and all remaining claims that depend therefrom.

25 2. *Regarding claims 9 and 10, Gunderwar further fails to teach the step of preparing at least a third electronic page that comprises an instruction for at least one work step of the sequence of work steps, but rather identifies modules that contain status pages and program instructions.*

In the OA, on p. 5, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10, stating:

5 As to claims 9 and 10, Gunderwar teaches the method according to claims 1 and 2, further comprising: preparing at least a third electronic page that comprises and instruction for at least one work step of the sequence of work steps (column 3, lines 38–53).

Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization. Gunderwar states, in the cited section:

10 Referring again to FIG. 1, system 10 also includes a project workspace 40, associated with a particular project, that is resident within the memory of server 12, client 14, or other server or network device
15 accessible by client 14 over link 30 or another suitable communications link. Project workspace 20 includes modules such as status page 42, personnel list 44, and deliverables library 46.
20 Each module described in reference to server 12, client 14, and project workspace 40 may comprise any suitable combination of hardware and software in computer 80 to provide the functionality or operation of the module. For example, the modules may include program instructions, associated memory, and
25 processing components to execute program instructions. Also, modules illustrated in FIG. 1 may be separate or integral to other modules.

It is clear that the program instructions are contained in modules from Gunderwar, but there is no teaching or suggestion of preparing a third electronic page comprising the instruction, let alone that an instruction itself relates to at
30 least one work step for the sequence of work steps.

Lacking this teaching, Applicants further assert this as an additional basis for claims 9 and 10 being distinguishable over the Gunderwar reference.

For these reasons, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection from the application.

CONCLUSION

Inasmuch as each of the objections have been overcome by the arguments presented above, and all of the Examiner's suggestions and requirements have been satisfied, it is respectfully requested that the present
5 application be reconsidered, the rejections be withdrawn and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Any shortages of fees due may be charged to, and any overpayments may be credited to, deposit account no. 50-1519.

10

Respectfully submitted,

15

/Mark Bergner/ (Reg. No. 45,877)
Mark Bergner
SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP
PATENT DEPARTMENT
6600 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473
(312) 258-5779
Attorney for Applicants
20 Customer Number 26574